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AND

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RICHMOND: PRINTED BY THOMAS NICOLSON.

TO THE PRINTER.

SIR,

THE incloſed letter contains the reaſons of his Excellency Governour Randolph for refuſing his ſignature to the propoſed Fœderal Conſtitution of Government ſubmitted to the ſeveral ſtates by the late Convention at Philadelphia. The manner in which we have obtained it, and the authority by which we convey it to the public, through the channel of your preſs, will be explained by the letter herewith ſent to you, which, we requeſt may precede his Excellency's letter to the Speaker of the Houſe of Delegates in your publication of them.

M. SMITH.
CHARLES M. THRUSTON.
JOHN H. BRIGGS.
MANN PAGE, jun.

To his Excellency EDMUND RANDOLPH, Eſquire.

SIR, December 2, 1787.

IT has been reported in various parts of the ſtate, that the reaſons which governed you in your diſapprobation of the propoſed Fœderal Conſtitution, no longer exiſt; and many of the people of this Commonwealth have wiſhed to know what objections could induce you to refuſe your ſignature to a meaſure ſo flattering to many principal characters in America, and which is ſo generally ſuppoſed to contain the ſeeds of proſperity and happineſs to the United States.

We are ſatisfied, ſir, that the time is paſſed, when you might with propriety have been requeſted to communicate your ſentiments to the General Aſſembly on this ſubject; but, as you have been pleaſed to favour us with your obſervations in private, and we conceive they would not only afford ſatisfaction to the public, but alſo be uſeful by the information and inſtruction they will convey, we hope, you can have no objection to enable us to make them public through the medium of the Preſs. We have the honour to be, with reſpectful eſteem, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervants,

M. SMITH.
CHARLES M. THRUSTON.
JOHN H. BRIGGS.
MANN PAGE, jun.

To M. Smith, Charles M. Thruſton, John H. Briggs, and Mann Page, jun. Eſquires.

GENTLEMEN, December 10, 1787.

YOUR favour of the 2d inſtant, requeſting permiſſion to publiſh my letter on the new Conſtitution, gives me an opportunity of making known my ſentiments, which, perhaps I ought not to decline. It has been written ever ſince its date, and was intended for the General Aſſembly. But I have hitherto been reſtrained from ſending it to them, by motives of delicacy ariſing from two queſtions depending before that body, the one reſpecting the Conſtitution, the other myſelf. At this day too I feel an unwillingneſs to bring it before the Legiſlature, leſt in the diverſity of opinion, I ſhould excite a conteſt unfavourable to that harmony with which I truſt the great ſubject will be diſcuſſed. I therefore ſubmit the publication of the letter to your pleaſure.

I beg leave however, to remind you, that I have only mentioned my objections to the Conſtitution in general terms, thinking it improper, and too volumnious, to explain them at full length. But it is my purpoſe to go at large into the Conſtitution when a fit occaſion ſhall preſent itſelf.

I am, Gentlemen, with the greateſt reſpect, your moſt obedient ſervant,

EDMUND RANDOLPH.

A LETTER OF HIS EXCELLENCY EDMUND RANDOLPH, ESQUIRE, ON THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

RICHMOND, OCTOBER 10, 1787.

SIR,

THE Conſtitution, which I incloſed to the General Aſſembly in a late official letter, appears without my ſignature. This circumſtance, although trivial in its own nature, has been rendered rather important to myſelf at leaſt, by being miſunderſtood by ſome, and miſrepreſented by others—As I diſdain to conceal the reaſons for with-holding my ſubſcription, I have always been, ſtill am, and ever ſhall be, ready to proclaim them to the world. To the Legiſlature therefore, by whom I was deputed to the Fœderal Convention, I beg leave now to addreſs them; affecting no indifference to public opinion, but reſolved not to court it by an unmanly ſacrifice of my own judgement.

As this explanation will involve a ſummary, but general review of our Fœderal ſituation, you will pardon me, I truſt, although I ſhould tranſgreſs the uſual bounds of a letter.

Before my departure for the Convention, I believed, that the confederation was not ſo eminently defective, as it had been ſuppoſed. But after I had entered into a free communication with thoſe, who were beſt informed of the condition and intereſt of each ſtate; after I had compared the intelligence derived from them, with the properties which ought to characterize the government of our union. I became perſuaded, that the confederation was deſtitute of every energy, which a Conſtitution of the United States ought to poſſeſs.

For the objects propoſed by its inſtitution were, that it ſhould be a ſhield againſt foreign hoſtility, and a firm reſort againſt domeſtic commotion: That it ſhould cheriſh trade, and promote the proſperity of the ſtates under its care.

But theſe are not among the attributes of our preſent union. Severe experience under the preſſure of war—a ruinous weakneſs, manifeſted ſince the return of peace—and the contemplation of thoſe dangers, which darken the future proſpect, have condemned the hope of grandeur and of ſafety under the auſpices of the confederation,

In the exigencies of war indeed the hiſtory of its effects is ſhort; the final ratification having been delayed until the beginning of the year 1781. But howſoever ſhort, this period is diſtinguiſhed by melancholy teſtimonies, of its inability to maintain in harmony the ſocial intercourſe of the ſtates, to defend Congreſs againſt incroachments on their rights, and to obtain by requiſitions ſupplies to the Fœderal treaſury or recruits to the Fœderal armies I ſhall not attempt an enumeration of the particular inſtances; but leave to your own remembrance and the records of Congreſs, the ſupport of theſe aſſertions.

In the ſeaſon of peace too not many years have elapſed; and yet each of them has produced fatal examples of delinquency, and ſometimes of pointed oppoſition to Fœderal duties. To the various remonſtrances of Congreſs I appeal for a gloomy, but unexaggerated narrative of the injuries, which our faith, honour and happineſs have ſuſtained by the failures of the ſtates.

But theſe evils are paſt; and ſome may be lead by an honeſt zeal to conclude, that they cannot be repeated Yes, ſir; they will be repeated as long as the confederation exiſts, and will bring with them other miſchiefs, ſpringing from the ſame ſource, which cannot be yet foreſeen in their full array of terror.

If we examine the conſtitutions, and laws of the ſeveral ſtates, it is immediately diſcovered, that the law of nations is unprovided with ſanctions in many caſes, which deeply affect public dignity and public juſtice The letter, however of the confederation does not permit Congreſs to remedy theſe defects, and ſuch an authority, although evidently deducible from its ſpirit, cannot, without a violation of the ſecond article, be aſſumed. Is it not a political phænomenon, that the head of the confederacy ſhould be doomed to be plunged into war, from its wretched impotency to check offences againſt this law? And ſentenced to witneſs in unavailing anguiſh the infraction on their engagements to foreign Sovereigns?

And yet this is not the only grievous point of weakneſs. After a war ſhall be inevitable, the requiſitions of Congreſs for quotas of men or money, will again prove unproductive and fallacious Two cauſes will always conſpire to this baneful conſequence.

I. No government can be ſtable, which hangs on human inclination alone, unbiaſſed by the fear of coercion; and II. from the very connection between ſtates bound to proportionate contributions,—jealouſies and ſuſpicions naturally ariſe, which at leaſt chill the ardor, if they do not excite the murmurs of the whole. I do not forget indeed, that by one ſudden impulſe our part of the American continent has been thrown into a military poſture, and that in the earlier annals of the war, our armies marched to the field on the mere recommendations of Congreſs. But ought we to argue from a conteſt, thus ſignalized by the magnitude of its ſtake, that as often as a flame ſhall be hereafter kindled, the ſame enthuſiaſm will fill our legions? or renew them, as they may be thined by loſſes?

If not, where ſhall we find protection? Impreſſions, like thoſe, which prevent a compliance with requiſitions of regular forces, will deprive the American republic of the ſervices of militia. But let us ſuppoſe, that they are attainable, and acknowledge, as I always ſhall, that they are the natural ſupport of a free government. When it is remembered, that in their abſence agriculture muſt languiſh; that they are not habituated to to military expoſures and the rigor of military diſcipline, and that the neceſſity of holding in readineſs ſucceſſive detachments, carries the expence far beyond that of enliſtments——this reſource ought to be adopted with caution.

As ſtrongly too am I perſuaded, that requiſitions for money will not be more cordially received. For beſides the diſtruſt, which would prevail with reſpect to them alſo; beſides the opinion, entertained by each ſtate of its own liberality and unſatisfied demands againſt the United States, there is another conſideration, not leſs worthy of attention. The firſt rule for determining each quota was the value of all land granted or ſurveyed. and of the buildings and improvements thereon. It is no longer doubted, that an equitable, uniform mode of eſtimating that value, is impracticable; and therefore twelve ſtates have ſubſtituted the number of inhabitants under certain limitations, as the ſtandard according to which money is to be furniſhed. But under the ſubſiſting articles of the union, the aſſent of the thirteenth ſtate is neceſſary, and has not yet been given. This does of itſelf leſſen the hope of procuring a revenue for Fœderal uſes; and the miſcarriage of the impoſt almoſt rivets our deſpondency.

Amidſt theſe diſappointments, it would afford ſome conſolation, if when rebellion ſhall threaten any ſtate, and ultimate aſylum could be found under the wing of Congreſs. But it is at leaſt equivocal, whether they can intrude forces into a ſtate, rent aſunder by civil diſcord, even with the pureſt ſolicitude for our Fœderal welfare, and on the moſt urgent intreaties of the ſtate itſelf. Nay the very allowance of this power would be pageantry alone, from the want of money and of men.

To theſe defects of Congreſſional power, the hiſtory of man has ſubjoined others, not leſs alarming. I earneſtly pray, that the recollection of common ſufferings, which terminated in common glory, may check the ſallies of violence, and perpetuate mutual friendſhip between the ſtates. But I cannot preſume, that we are ſuperior to the unſocial paſſions, which under like circumſtances have infeſted more ancient nations. I cannot preſume, that through all time, in the daily mixture of American citizens with each other, in the conflicts for commercial advantages, in the diſcontents, which the neighbourhood of territory has been ſeen to engender in other quarters of the globe, and in the efforts of faction and intrigue—thirteen diſtinct communities under no effective ſuperintending controul (as the United States confeſſedly now are notwithſtanding the bold terms of the confederation) will avoid a hatred to each other deep and deadly.

In the proſecution of this inquiry we ſhall find the general proſperity to decline under a ſyſtem thus unnerved No ſooner is the merchant prepared for foreign ports with the treaſures, which this new world kindly offers to his acceptance, than it is announced to him, that they are ſhut againſt American ſhipping, or opened under oppreſſive regulations. He urges Congreſs to a counter policy, and is anſwered only by a condolence on the general misfortune. He is immediately ſtruck with the conviction, that until excluſion ſhall be oppoſed to excluſion and reſtriction to reſtriction, the American flag will be diſgraced For who can conceive, that thirteen legiſlatures, viewing commerce under different relations, and fancying themſelves, diſcharged from every obligation to concede the ſmalleſt of their commercial advantages for the benefit of the whole, will be wrought into a concert of action in defiance of every prejudice? Nor is this all:—Let the great improvements be recounted, which have inriched and illuſtrated Europe; Let it be noted, how few thoſe are, which will be abſolutely denied to the United States, comprehending within their boundaries the choiceſt bleſſings of climate, ſoil and navigable waters; then let the moſt ſanguine patriot baniſh, if he can, the mortifying belief, that all theſe muſt ſleep, until they ſhall be rouſed by the vigour of a national government.

I have not exemplified the preceding remarks by minute details; becauſe they are evidently fortified by truth, and the conſciouſneſs of United America. I ſhall therefore no longer deplore the unfitneſs of the confederation to ſecure our peace; but proceed, with a truly unaffected diſtruſt of my own opinions, to examine what order of powers the government of the United States ought to enjoy? How they ought to be defended againſt incroachment? Whether they can be interwoven in the confederation without an alteration of its very eſſence? Or muſt be lodged in new hands? Shewing at the ſame time the convulſions, which ſeem to await us from a diſſolution of the union or partial confederacies.

To mark the kind and degree of authority, which ought to be confided to the government of the United States is no more than to reverſe the deſcription, which have already given, of the defects of the confederation.

From thence it will follow, that the operations of peace and war will be clogged without regular advances of money, and that these will be slow indeed, if dependent on supplication alone. For what better name do requisitions deserve, which may be evaded or opposed, without the fear of coercion? But although coercion is an indispensable ingredient, it ought not to be directed against a state, as a state; it being impossible to attempt it except by blockading the trade of the delinquent, or carrying war into its bowels. Even if these violent schemes were eligible, in other respects both of them might perhaps be defeated by the scantiness of the public chest; would be tardy in their complete effect, as the expence of the land and naval equipments must be first reimbursed; and might drive the proscribed state into the desperate resolve of inviting foreign alliances. Against each of them lie separate unconquerable objections. A blockade is not equally applicable to all the states, they being differently circumstanced in commerce and in ports; nay an excommunication from the privileges of the union would be in vain, because every regulation or prohibition may be easily eluded under the rights of American citizenship, or of foreign nations. But how shall we speak of the intrusion of troops? Shall we arm citizens against citizens, and habituate them to shed kindred blood? Shall we risque the inflicting of wounds, which will generate a rancour never to be subdued? Would there be no room to fear, that an army accustomed to fight, for the establishment of authority, would salute an Emperor of their own! Let us not bring these things into jeopardy. Let us rather substitute the same process, by which individuals are compelled to contribute to the government of their own states. Instead of making requisitions to the Legislatures, it would appear more proper, that taxes should be imposed by the Fœderal Head, under due modifications and guards: That the collectors should demand from the citizens their respective quotas, and be supported as in the collection of ordinary taxes.

It follows too, that, as the general government will be responsible to foreign nations, it ought to be able to annul any offensive measure, or inforce any public right. Perhaps among the topics on which they may be aggrieved or complain, the commercial intercourse, and the manner, in which contracts are discharged, may constitute the principal articles of clamour.

It follows too, that the general government ought to be the supreme arbiter for adjusting every contention among the states. In all their connections therefore with each other, and particularly in commerce, which will probably create the greatest discord, it ought to hold the reins.

It follows too, that the general government ought to protect each state against domestic as well as external violence.

And lastly it follows, that through the general government alone can we ever assume the rank, to which we are entitled by our resources and situation.

Should the people of America surrender these powers, they can be paramount to the constitutions, and ordinary acts of legislation, only by being delegated by them. I do not pretend to affirm, but I venture to believe, that if the confederation had been solemnly questioned in opposition to our constitution or even to one of our laws, posterior to it, it must have given way. For never did it obtain with us a higher ratification, then a resolution of Assembly in the daily form.

This will be one security against incroachment. But another not less effectual is, to exclude the individual states from any agency in the national government, as far as it may be safe, and their interposition may not be absolutely necessary.

[*The remainder in our next.*]

LONDON, October 1.

A FEW weeks since was married at the Abbey Church, Bath, George Scott, Esq; of Paddington, near London; and on Friday last both he and his lady were found dead.—They went to bed the preceding evening apparently in health.

The last words of a remarkable CHARACTER.

A Cheshire waggoner, who had got together a little estate, finding himself very ill, sent for a clergyman and an attorney, who both came in at the same time, and found all his family weeping round the bed. The man of law having prepared his pen and ink, desired to know how he would choose to leave his property? The sick man having mustered up sufficient strength for his last effort, spoke as follows:—"The house, and all the sticks in it, to Mary (his wife) as long as she live, and then divided among the rest on 'em. The waggons and horses to Tom. The plows and cows to Dick, with half o' the farm. The other half and a hundred pound to Will. Three hundred pound to Moll. The same to Bett. And now write lawyer, pray parson, cry wife, and bellow children; for by the Lord I'am dying.

A correspondent recommends the following receipt for the bite of a mad dog, which he always found successful, and which for humanity's sake he wishes should be made public:—Take 24 grains of cinnebar, 24 grains of factitious cenebar, and 10 grains of musk, reduce them into a very fine powder, and give them as soon as possible, in a tea-cup full of any kind of spirits; if the person has any symptoms of madness, they are to take a second dose immediately; and whether they are affected or not, the same must be repeated in 30 days after.

Wednesday about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, a very extraordinary affair happened in Cornhill.—A lady in a genteel dress, walking on the footway, was seized by a gentleman in boots, who had just alighted from a horse. A scuffle ensued, by his violent endeavours to force her into a coach, which caused a crowd to surround them; before he could effect his purpose, several gentlemen interested themselves in the lady's favour, and demanded to know the cause of this outrage. The answer from the offender was, that the lady in question had eloped from him some time ago, and that she was his wife. The constable of the day as he saw the crowd encreasing, put them both into a coach, and ordered the man on the box to drive the company to the Compter, where he committed them by virtue of his staff for breeding a riot in the city.—When they arrived at the peace making mansion, the gentleman persisted in the lady's being his property by marriage, and said that she had run him into debt to a considerable amount; and that he took her up in order to prevent any further depredations on his purse. The lady acknowledged that she was his wife, and excused her elopement by alledging that he had broke the marriage bond, by hating, instead of loving, and in beating instead of cherishing her, and that under such circumstances she deemed herself warranted, by the spirit of the matrimonial law, to divorce herself a *mensa & thoro*. The officers of the Compter understood nothing of divorces, nor of the connubial laws, and insisted upon bail to stand trial for breaking the peace; in consequence of which, the parties are kept there until a magistrate shall determine the cause. The prisoners are persons of consequence, and the husband was just come to town from his country house at Barnet, in search of the fair fugitive, whom he accidently met as above related.

Since the 29th of July, the day on which the Courier was expected by M. de Bulgakow, to inform his Court of the extraordinary propositions made to him by the Turks, in the conference of the 26th—From that day, till the 14th of August, affairs had remained in a state of apparent tranquility, so that the general opinion of the foreign Ministers was, that before the return of the Courier every thing on that head would be passed by and forgotten, when on the arrival of a small vessel from Cherson, that sullen silence was broken. In the afternoon the report was, that some disagreeable event had taken place between the subjects of the two Empires in that quarter.

October 6. On Thursday Government contracted for 16,000 tons of transports, which are to be immediately equipped and got ready for sea with all possible expedition.

Saturday Government contracted with Mr. Simms, in the Borough, for 10,000 beds, for the use of the navy.

The same day Government contracted for 10,000 tents, and other field equipage, for the use of the army. This contract was made with Mr. Trotter, of Firth Street, Soho.

Orders have been issued for camp equipage, for 6000 men, which will be sent to Germany, in conformity to our present treaty with Prussia, in case of war with France. Twenty sail of ships of the line are to be furnished on the same conditions, and these will be very soon ready for sea.

Saturday an order was sent from the Treasury to the Pay Office, directing that 20,000l. be immediately issued, to defray the expences of recruiting the four additional companies, to be added to each regiment on the British establishment.

Orders are sent to the Carron Water Manufactory in Scotland, for immediately casting a number of iron cannon for the use of the men of war.

For the more expeditious equipment of the fleet, all the marines employed in guarding the dock yards, will be relieved from that duty, and embarked in the different ships now preparing for sea.

Several regiments of regulars have been ordered to garrison at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Chatham, preparatory to the embarkation of the marines.

Intimation has been given to the Navy Agents to make up their accounts of prize money due for captures in the late war, so that the same may be paid with all possible dispatch to such seamen, &c. as may have any claim thereto.

Draughts are ordered to be made of such men as are able, from Greenwich Hospital, to assist in rigging and fitting out such ships in the river as are ordered to be got ready for sea.

BOSTON, *December 7.*

THE disunited states of America, at this all-important crisis, may be fitly compared to 13 distinct, separate, independent, unsupported columns—discovering the noblest tracts of workmanship, and evidently calculated to sustain a superb edifice.—For want of this structure, the beholder is bewildered in contemplating their origin, design, and use—He feels concerned for their exposed situation, and, extending his ideas, anticipates the defacing of their beauty by the rude blasts of the winds and the weather, and their rapid destruction from the ruthless attacks of anarchy, on the one hand, and of despotism, on the other.——In this distressing perplexity, the glorious frame of government for the United States, proposed by the late Convention, presents itself to view—the columns appear with additional lustre—their use and design are fully understood; rising from their solid pedestals, they receive the heaven descended DOME, supporting and supported by the noble structure. Discord, jealousy, and misrule, retire! Peace, liberty, and safety, enter!—Justice, honour, and faith, are its unfading ornaments!

While round the whole, encircling glories rise,
"Fame claps her wings, and sound them to the skies."

NEW-YORK, Oct. 27.

A GENTLEMAN from Berkshire informs, that one night last week a number of the disaffected party passed along the street in Great-Barrington, huzzaing for Shays, and threatened to release the prisoners. The people of the town immediately assembled, but the party of insurgents escaped.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.

PIRACY!

RUN away with from Simpson's Bay, St. Martins, by three white men and one black boy, on the evening of the 4th of September, a small Virginia built Schooner, about 38 feet keel, with black sides, white bottom, quarters and stern green, two cabbin windows, and two quarter lights, the rudder traversing clear of the upper part of the stern, new standing rigging, and new sails; the main gaff scarfed in consequence of the new mainsail being too square, new combings, and waist partly new; has much the appearance of Bermuda built, and had on board nineteen puncheons of rum, taken from Friar's Bay, French Quarter, St Martin's, under Dutch colours; the papers in the name of one Capt. John Shockey, was endorsed to John White, and the Schooner's name the Friar's Bay Packet. The Captain that run away with her, was one Robert Enesser, (or such name) born in some part of England, but resident for eight or ten years last past in this island, about 5 feet 4 inches high, black hair, black eyes, brown complexion, and a smooth skin.

Savary Taylor, about 5 feet 8 inches high, fair hair, freckled in the face and on the hands, about 21 years of age, with grey eyes, born in Virginia.

Thomas Champlin, about the size of the Captain, not so corpulent, but of a thin body, black hair, and born in the island of St. Martin's.

The negro boy, the property of Simon Achman, by the name of Billy Scott, about 16 years of age, one eye, likely face.

By a schooner from Spanish-Town, Capt. Butler, we learn, and have the following intelligence, viz.—That a few days before he left that island, who had been at St. John's, as he was informed by several of the inhabitants, a schooner came to anchor at Water-Mellon Key, which was well known to be the schooner run away with from St. Martin's and that they sold one hogshead of rum at two shillings per gallon, bought corn and some other articles, and got away before the day expired. The account they gave of themselves was, that they were from St. Martin's, drove out by stress of weather; that they had left their Captain on shore; but it was observed they kept down before the wind after quitting Water-Mellon Key, and it is supposed were distined for St. Thomas's. He also observes that the natives (after their departure) were suspicious from their mode of acting, that they were not on any good design. A very reasonable reward will be given for the security of the vessel and cargo, or any part of the property, as also for apprehending the villians, that they may be brought to justice, and every expence will be paid by S. ACHMAN.

ST. MARTIN'S, September 21, 1787.

Dec 22. The State Convention convened at Trenton for the purpose of taking into consideration the constitution formed by the Continental Convention, after a weeks deliberation, unanimously agreed to the same, and having finished their business, broke up on Wednesday last.

Dec. 25 Thursday last the French packet sailed from New York. We are informed that she was well armed, having mounted 8 nine pounders previous to her sailing, and was proportionably manned.

Circular letters have been sent by order of his Excellency the Governour of South Carolina to the members of the Legislature, requiring them to meet in General Assembly early in January, for the dispatch of public business, and as the new federal constitution will be amongst the first things proposed for their consideration, it is expected there will be a quorum the first day.

A correspondent informs us, that a gentleman who has just returned from a tour through the states of Maryland and Virginia says, that he was repeatedly assured, that there would not be a dissenting voice in the Convention of Maryland against the new Constitution; and that at least nineteen twentieths of the yeomanry of Virginia are on the side of General Washington, the Man of the People, in favour of the new government. He adds further, that the Nabobs, or great men (falsely so called) of Virginia are of its only enemies.

WILMINGTON, (Delaware) Dec. 19.

Extract of a letter from a member of the British Parliament, to his friend in this Borough, dated London, October 4, 1787.

"TO morrow it is supposed affairs will come to a decision between our Court and that of Versailles:—Probably without a positive answer from France; we are peremptory in declaring war against them, if the Cape of Good Hope and Trincomale are not restored to the Dutch, which France has completely in possession, by three regiments of their troops, to 400 Dutch. The nation in general enter heartily into war, the opposition in Parliament join in saying they entirely approve of it, and I am happy to say that more sailors have offered to enter than government want. We could not have begun a war at a better time, our different fleets at home, and Lord Howe has brought our Navy into a better state than ever it was. Our only fear is that France may have a superior force for us in the West Indies; a fleet with troops will be ready in the course of a week to sail for that quarter equal at least, if not superior to any they have to oppose us, the mischief may however have happened before they arrive as well as in the East, notwithstanding which we have every hope of success, and are in the greatest spirits. We flatter ourselves matters will not be made up between Russia and the Porte. France will be obliged to assist the latter. Holland will probably be on our side. Spain against us.

WINCHESTER, Dec. 14.

Extract of a letter from Fort Pitt.

A NUMBER of people have been lately murdered within twenty miles of Catfish; I must take the liberty to tell you that it is my opinion, if something is not immediately done to settle matters, a general Indian war will be the consequence.

"Since writing the above, I am informed of a number of people being killed, and that the Indians are not far off, and have four scalps with them that have been seen; I am preparing to-night, and shall march against them to-morrow, having procured two friendly Indians as guides."

RICHMOND, JAN. 4.

ACCOUNTS from New York advise, that a gentleman lately arrived from Canada, reports, that Lord Dorchester has strongly fortified an island at the mouth of the river St. Lawrence, and planted the island all round with three tier of canon, from 18 to 42 pounders, his Lordship being apprehensive of a visit from the Baille de Suffrein, accompanied by the Toulon squadron, which consists of 17 ships of the line, besides fifties, corvettes, bomb ketches, and fire ships together with a large number of transports and store ships loaded with a numerous train of battering canon, of size enormous.

Report also says, that the French Ministry have applied to the American Ambassador at Versailles, requesting him to solicit Congress in the name of his Most Christian Majesty, for permission to march a body of 15,000 French troops through the state of New York to Canada; it is likewise said they have asked the loan of 7000 American troops to act in conjunction with the French army, for the purpose of reducing the province of Canada to the obedience of its former and rightful Sovereign.

Thursday last being the festival of St. John the Evangelist, the Ancient and Honourable society of Free and Accepted Masons of the lodges in this city, went in procession from their Hall, with a band of music, to church, where their Chaplain delivered a very suitable discourse, after which they returned in the same order, and in the evening they concluded, with a grand Ball.

On Tuesday evening last the officers of the Light Infantry of this city, gave a ball to a very numerous assembly of ladies and gentlemen.

Yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock, a fire broke out in the house occupied by Mrs. Gilbert (about 80 yards distant from the Assembly house, and 100 from Shockoe warehouses) which was burnt to the ground; from the activity of some carpenters and others (who deserve great praise) in cutting down the adjacent buildings, to which the fire had, and was like to communicate; the flames were happily extinguished, although in the midst of a number of wooden buildings; there was but little loss sustained, excepting the house, and a few beds and furniture which were in a room where the fire broke out.

Duties imposed on imported articles payable in certificates, to take place the first day of March next

Rum per gallon, 4s. Brandy and other distilled spirits, do. 1s. Madeira wine per gallon, 1s. 6d. other wines do. 1s. Porter, 9d. Snuff per bottle, 1s. manufactured tobacco per lb. 1s Loaf and lump sugar per lb 3d Coffee per lb. 3d Pepper do. 6d other spices, 4d. dressed Leather per lb. 6d. Tand do. per lb. 4d. Bohea tea, 1s. other teas, 2s. Cordage per Ct. 4s. Bar iron per Ct. 4s. Pots and other castings, 4s. Nail rods per Ct. 6s. Wine in quart bottles and others in proportion per dozen, 3s. Malt liquors in quart bottles per do, 2s. 6d. Charriots and coaches, 20l. other four wheel carriages, 15l. two wheel carriages, 10l Clocks, 5l. Axes per dozen, 8s. Hoes per do. 6s. Saddles a piece, 12s. Ladies stuff or Morocco shoes per pair, 1s. Ladies silk do. 2s. Mens and womens shoes, 1s. Shoe boots per pair, 6s. Boot legs per pair, 1s. 6d. Playing cards per dozen, 1l. 10s. Coal per bushel, 6d. Salt beef per Ct, 1l. Do. Pork per Ct. 1l. Candles per lb. 4d. Butter per lb 4d. Soap per lb. 4d

All ready made wearing apparel not before enumerated (except gloves and stockings) or metal coat and waistcoat buttons, on all horse and cariage whips and walking canes, on all gold and silver lace, ten per cent ad valorem, and upon all goods, wares, and merchandize whatsoever, not above enumerated, except salt, a duty of three per cent.

☞ *All persons indebted to the printer hereof for Gazettes, &c. are earnestly request to call and discharge their accounts.*

MOULD CANDLES, at 1s. per pound,

By MYER DERKHEIM, at the store lately occupied by Messr. Moses and Joseph A. Myers, opposite Messr. Montgomery, Henry, & co. The best turpentine soap, at 9d. the single pound, and 8d. by taking 8 pounds. Sixpence per pound will be allowed for kitchen stuff in exchange for soap.

Any person finding tallow, may have candles made for 4d. per pound.

Richmond, Jan. 2, 1788.

L O S T,

In or near RICHMOND,

About 600 Dollars (INDENTS

Inclosed in a News-paper. Whoever will bring them to the printer hereof shall be handsomely rewarded.

Richmond, Dec. 26, 1787.

At a Court of ADMIRALTY,

held at the CAPIOTL, in the city of Williamsburg, the 8th day of December 1787.

RETURN being made on the citation issued the suit commenced in this Court by Christopher Pan, against the brigantine Hope, that the master owner of the said vessel was not found and no person appearing to claim 34 kegs of paint part of the said brigtines cargo. It is ordered that publication be made three times in the Virginia Gazette that the libel be taken for confessed unless the party interested shall appear and shew cause to the contrary on the 10th day of January next.

(A copy)

WILL. RUSSELL, Reg.

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JANUARY 1, 1788.

I AM directed to forewarn all persons from the present date, from hunting, shooting, or otherwise trespassing on the FALLS PLANTATION.—Any one offending herein after this caution, may depend upon being taken notice of.

THOMAS CARTER, Overseer.

For Sale,
A likely NEGRO BOY,

About 16 YEARS OLD,

Who can Shave & Dress,

Equal to any Barber in this city.

For terms apply to the Printer.

To be Sold,
Or RENTED,

On reasonable TERMS, for a TERM of YEARS,

A good Dwelling-House,

With every necessary OUT HOUSE for a family.

Also a convenient Store House,

With two rooms below, and three above,

With a LUMBER HOUSE and STABLE,

Lying in HANOVER TOWN.

There is adjoining the above HOUSES,

A few acres of very rich LAND,

Which may be had with them.

☞ If I do not dispose of, or rent the above houses, before the 1st of April next, I will then lease a plantation in Albemarle county, well adapted to the culture of tobacco and wheat, with a good Dwelling House thereon.

JOSEPH BRAND.

HANOVER-TOWN, Jan. 1, 1788.

Four Dollars Reward.
L O S T

ON Monday evening last the 24th instant, between the Bridge and Rockett's, a large metal Stop Watch, makers name, Turner, London, No. 1071, with a steel chain, one large gold seal, cypher W H. one brass watch key, and one gold ditto. Whoever has found the same, and will deliver her to the Printer hereof, shall receive the above reward.

RICHMOND, December 29, 1787.

To be Sold,
OR RENTED,

THE remainder of a lease of which about four years are yet unexpired, of a valuable lot in the town of Norfolk, with a large and convenient store house thereon, with four rooms below, and two large lofts near the county wharf, a situation equal to any in town. Also the fee-simple of a lot in Hanover Town, with a convenient store house, lumber house, kitchen, stable, and necessary house thereon, all well pailed in, situate on the cross street leading immediately to the warehouses, and to New Castle, likewise the fee simple of a lot in Gloucester Town, near the Ferry Landing, with a new well built granary thereon; for the convenience of purchasers credit will be allowed, and possession may be had immediately, on giving bond with approved security, farther particulars may be known on application to Matthew Anderson, Esq; or Major Samuel Cary, in Gloucester, Mr. Samuel Pryor, on the premises in Norfolk, or to THE DIRECTORS.

*** The Governours and Visitors of WILLIAM & MARY college are requested to convene in the city of Williamsburg on the 15th of January next, at which time some matters of consequence will be submitted to their consideration. JAMES INNES, Rector.

York Grammar-School,

December 17, 1787.

MR. EVANS enjoys sincere pleasure in thus paying his grateful acknowledgements to the gentlemen of York and of other parts of the country, for the countenance and encouragement which they have shewn him as a teacher; and as he flatters himself that they have found no cause to regret the confidence which they have reposed in his attention and abilities, he hopes for the continuance of their patronage.

To the public he thinks it proper to add that he continues the tuition of youth in the classicks and the English language: writing and arithmetick; geography and the use of the globes;——for the last of which branches he is provided with a very complete apparatus.

The terms are ten pounds per annum, to be paid half yearly with one dollar upon admission towards fire for the season.

Mr. Evans's motives for fixing upon one uniform, liberal price are, first, that by making it worth his while to confine his attention to a smaller number of boys, he may be able to do them greater justice; and secondly, that thus children, if not of looser principles, at least of more vulgar habits, may be prevented from intermixing to corrupt the morals and vitiate the manners of his pupils.

W. SHERMER,
Has received from EUROPE,

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

F A L L G O O D S,

Which he will sell at a very moderate advance,

WHOLESALE,

At his SOTRE near the Capitol,

either for CASH, TOBACCO, or MILITARY CERTIFICATES, at their current value.

They consist of the following and other ARTICLES, viz.

SUPERFINE, second, and coarse cloths, Kendal cottons, corduroys, fustains, jeans, fattinets, velvets, velveteens, moleskin, Denmark fattin, denims, everlastings, hair shags, and all kinds of MANCHESTER GOODS. Thread, buttons, silk, twist, &c. Blankets, plains, and flannels. Yarn, and worstead stockings, hats, and shoes, Irish linen from 8d. to 2s. 6d. per yard. Sheeting, both Scotch and Irish, and brown Holland. Calicoes, and printed handkerchiefs in variety of patterns, and mode. Mattrasses, and bed tykes. An assortment of the most fashionable pieces for waistcoats in figured velvets, Moncrief, striped, and quilted silks and sattins, and flannel with silk stripes. Men's gloves, lined with flannel and lamb skin. Leather breeches, and boots, Sadlery, amongst which are a few single chair harness. Pottery in Queen's ware, &c. All kinds of hardware, and ironmongery. Powder and shot. A quantity of Scotch and Wilton CARPETS in variety of patterns, &c. &c. &c.

Will be Sold,

Upon the premises on the 24th day of January 1787, one tract of LAND lying in Louisa county, taxed in the name of JOHN MOORE, dec. said to bolong to Col. JOHN HARVIE, containing six hundred acres, or so much thereof, as will satisfy the Revenue and Certificate taxes, due for 1786, and expences attending the sale.

REVENUE TAX,	£. 7 10 0
CERTIFICATE TAX,	5 0 0

JOHN POINDEXTER, D. S.
for Thomas Johnson, Sheriff.

LOUISA, Dec. 17, 1787.

Will be Sold,

Agreeable to a clause in the Revenue law, on the premises, on Monday the 14th day of January 1788, to satisfy the Revenue and Certificate taxes for the years 1783, 1784, and 1785, and other necessary expences attending the sale, viz.

ONE thousand acres of land, (more or less) belonging to Joseph Loyall, lying in Henry county, on the branches of Turky Cock Creek, adjoining the land of Mr. John Booth, in said county.

NATHAN RYAN, D. S.
for ABRAHAM PENN, Sheriff.

Will be Sold,

Agreeable to a clauſe in the Revenue Law on the premiſes, to ſatisfy the Revenue and Certificate taxes for 1786, and the neceſſary expences attending the ſale, viz.

	Acres.
On Monday 7th Jan. Valentine Wood's eſtate,	1200.
On Theſday the 8th, David Anderſon's eſtate,	304.
On Wedneſday the 9th, Robert Anderſon,	304.
On Thurſday the 10th, John Anderſon,	304.
On Friday the 11th, Col. Rich. Anderſon,	232.
On Saturday the 12th, Garland Anderſon,	100.
On Monday the 14th, Bartelett Anderſon,	100.
On Tueſday the 15th, Thomas Pleaſants,	520.
ditto,	400.
On Wedneſday the 16th, John Garron,	196.
On Thurſday the 17th, Eliz. Henderſon,	150.

JOHN POINDEXTER, D. Sheriff, for Thomas Johnſon, Sheriff.

Louiſa, Nov. 28, 1787.

To be Sold,

A new LIGHT CHARIOT COMPLEAT,

With one ſet of Harneſs;

Likewiſe a very LIGHT PHÆTON,

Of the neweſt Faſhion,

With a pair of HARNESS,

BOTH JUST FINISHED,

And will be warranted for good materials, and ſound workmanſhip.

£.75 ready caſh is EXPECTED for the CHARIOT;

And £.60 for the PHÆTON.

INQUIRE OF

JESSE COLE.

Williamſburg, Dec. 3, 1787.

For SALE,

On very REASONABLE TERMS,

For caſh, military certificates, or intereſt warrants at their current value,

AN unexpired term of a leaſe of the houſe now occupied by Marcus Elcan, ſituated on the main ſtreet in this city, well ſituated for a ſtore and family, with neceſſary out houſes; alſo a large lumber houſe.—For further particulars, inquire of the printer hereof.

To be Sold,

On the premiſes, in Louiſa county, the following tracts of land, or ſo much thereof, as will ſatisfy the Revenue tax for 1785, and Certificate tax for 1784, and 1785, due January 1785, and 1786, and other expences incurred.

	Acres.
ON Monday 21ſt Jan. 1788, Tho. Pleaſants,	420.
Ditto. do.	500.
On Tueſday the 22d, James Crews,	200.
On Wedneſday the 23d, Job Harris,	50.
On Thurſday the 24th, John Overton,	150.

R. YANCY, for W. Thomſon, late Sheriff.

LOUISA, December 8, 1787.

To be SOLD,

Or exchanged for property in ENGLAND.

A TRACT of LAND in Prince George county, lying upon James river oppoſite to Weſtover; about 12 miles from Peterſburg, and known by the name of Duchy Hill. There is no houſes upon it, but a moſt deſirable ſituation for one; about twenty five acres of meadow ground, an excellent apple orchard and as good a fiſhery as any upon the river.

Any perſon wiſhing to purchaſe or give property in England for the above-mentioned tract of land, will pleaſe to apply to Mr. William Schermer of Richmond, or the ſubſcriber in Hanover-Town.

ROBERT FLEMING.

Hanover-Town, Oct. 25, 1787.

SNUFF MILLS, AT WILLIAMSBURG.

THE proprietors of which have for ſale a large quantity of SCOTCH SNUFF, two years old, and by judges of that article, ſaid to be fully equal to any imported from Europe. RAPPEE SNUFF, ſuperior to what can poſſibly croſs the Atlantic. TWIST & SHAGG, for chewing, fine CUT for ſmoaking, to be had at the ſame place. The prices wholeſale are 25 per cent lower then any other ſtate do furniſh thoſe articles. All orders addreſſed as above, due attention will be paid for expedition and care in package.

By the public's devoted ſervants,

HUNT & ADAMS.

Williamſburg, March 9. 1787.

N B. The above articles are to be had at their ſhop in Richmond, and at Mr. Robt. Greenhow's ſtore on Shockoe hill near the Theatre.

JUST PUBLISHED,

And for ſale by THOMAS NICOLSON,

At his Office near the COURT HOUSE,

The Virginia Almanack, For the Year 1788,

Being Beſextile, or Leap Year.

CONTAINING the Lunations, Conjunctions, Eclipſes, Weather, riſing and ſetting of the Sun; change and full of the Moon; County and other Court days; liſt of Public Offices; Roads from Richmond to the Sweet Springs; a variety of Anecdotes and pieces of Wit; Weight of Golds eſtabliſhed by act of Aſſembly; Scale of Depreciation; a complete table for weighing Gold, from one Grain to ſixty four Ounces; Receipt for a Cancer; an eaſy method of finding intereſt for any ſum; Days on which the Poſts and Packets ſet out; Receipt for making French Bread; how to keep French Beans and Green Peas til Chriſtmas; to make Mead; to fine Cyder; a ſhort ſketch on Gardening; to take Pimples and Freckles off the Face; to make Liquid Blacken; Receipts for Worms in Children; to take out Greaſe, ſpots of Ink, Tar Wine, &c. out of Cloth; to kill Chinches, Gargle for the Soar Throat: cure for the Scurvy, Tooth-Ach, and a number of other uſeful Receipts.

VIRGINIA.

At a General Court held in Richmond, October the 6th, 1787.

THE Court doth authorize and appoint the acting Juſtices of the peace within this Commonwealth, and every of them, ſeverally to take recognizances of ſpecial bail within their reſpective counties in actions which now are, or hereafter may be depending in this Court, and it is ordered that a copy of this order be publiſhed three weeks in each of the Virginia Gazettes.

(A Copy)

Teſte JOHN BROWN, C. G. C.

To be Sold,

On Thurſday the 10th of Jauary next,

A PLANTATION lying between Suffolk and South Quay, formerly the property of Demſey Carr, deceaſed, containg 700 acres of land, or thereabouts, with a dwelling houſe, and all other neceſſary out houſes likewiſe two very good orchards, ſufficient to make 12 or 15 barrels of brandy, alſo a ſtill on ſaid plantation.

At the ſame time will be ſold another plantation adjoining the above, containing about one hundred acres, with a houſe and orchard on the ſame. Twelve months credit will be allowed, on giving bond with ſufficient ſecurity, to carry intereſt from the date if not punctually paid.

JACOB DARDEN.
MILES BUTLER.
JOHN KING.

NANSEMOND, Dec. 9, 1787.

TAKEN up on the plantation of David Johnſon, on the South river in Louiſa county, a dark bay MARE, about 14 or 15 years old, near 5 feet high, branded on the near ſhoulder with a heart, and on the near buttock H. Appraiſed to five pounds.

WILLIAM WHITE, J. P.

TAKEN up in Hanover, near the Hon. Peter Lyons's, a ſmall bay MARE, with ſaddle ſpots on her back, about 4 feet 1 inch high, 8 or 9 years old, a long buſhy tail, and thick mane, which hangs on the near ſide, branded on the near ſhoulder and buttock S. near hind foot white above the footlocks, ſhe gallops very well. Appraiſed to ten dollars.

THOMAS BOWLES.

For Sale,

For Caſh or Long Credit.

A VALUABLE Farm, containing three hundred acres, more or leſs (near thirty of which is reclaimed meadow.) It is beautifully ſituated within four miles of the city of Richmond, on the main road to Williamſburg, it was the property of ROBERT GILBERT deceaſed. There is on the ſaid farm, a good dwelling houſe, kitchen, and every other out houſe neceſſary for a genteel family. Poſſeſſion will be given immediately it is ſold, by

GABRIEL GALT.
JAMES ANDERSON.

TREASURY OFFICE,

DECEMBER 6, 1787.

THE money in the funds appropriated by law to the diſcharge of the intereſt on the army debt, will be apportioned among the holders of the warrants for the fifth years intereſt on Military Certificates, which ſhall be brought into the Treaſury to be regiſtered between the date hereof, and the 22d day of January next.

J. AMBLER, Treaſurer.

IN the month of March next I propoſe to divide ſeveral tracts of land, conſiſting of about 12,000 acres, into lots, to contain from 100 to 150 acres each—The ſaid lots are intended to be leaſed for lives or a term of years. The greateſt part of the ſaid lands lie in the counties of Shanandoah and Frederick, in the vicinity of Marlbrough Iron-Works, and in the neighbourhood of the borough of Windheſter—Thoſe who wiſh to leaſe any of the ſaid lots may have farther information, by applying to me in the city of Richmond, during the preſent ſeſſion of General-Aſſembly, or after that time, to me or my Agent at the works aforeſaid.

ISAAC ZANE.

County Court Clerks, merchants, ſheriffs, naval-officers, and others may be furniſhed with any of the undermentioned BLANKS, at the ſhorteſt notice, by the Printer hereof, viz

COUNTY COURT.

PETITION & SUMMONS.
SUBPOENAS.
WRITS.
ATTACHMENTS.
EXECUTIONS.
EXECUTORS BONDS.
ADMINISTRATORS ditto.
ORPHANS ditto.

SHERIFFS.

REPLEVY BONDS.
APPEARANCE ditto.
PRISON BOUND ditto.

MERCHANTS.

COMMON BONDS.
NOTES OF HAND.
BILLS OF EXCHANGE.
BILLS OF LADING.
BILLS OF SALE.
DEEDS OF TRUST.
DEEDS FOR LAND.
SEAMEN's ARTICLES.
INDENTURES &c.

NAVAL OFFICERS.

DUTY BONDS.
CLEARANCES.
PERMITS, &c.

Declarations for Lawyers,

OF VARIOUS FORMS.

N. MURRAY's MAP OF THE UNITED STATES.

May be had at this Office.

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY,

Prited ſince the reviſed code,

Viz. For the years 1783, 84, 85, and 86.

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